

From: Shanti Kulkarni
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Regarding the Microsoft settlement, I hope the court will ensure that any settlement is strong enough to ensure a level of competition which provides value to the public and encourages innovation. As was shown by the 1995 ruling, Microsoft will simply weasel out of any agreement that does not include a strong enforcement mechanism. It will use any provided wiggle room to integrate any emerging PC or Internet technology into its all-consuming operating system. Given the monopoly that Windows enjoys, such integration has the effect stifling innovation by unaffiliated vendors, and denying the public the value of potential competition. It is in the public interest that Microsoft be barred from doing so again, as it did with its Internet Explorer, and is currently doing again with Media Player. I urge the court to reject DOJ's proposed settlement, and any settlement that lacks strong enforcement and heavy penalties for failing to comply with its terms.

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